

Executive Registry

23 APR 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Comments by Representative John Lindsay on the  
Floor of the House of Representatives - 26 March 1964

1. Representative John Lindsay's latest speech on CIA differs slightly from his previous articles and speeches. While he continues the trend which began with his first public statements, Representative Lindsay has made fewer specific allegations against the CIA. He now confines himself to a justification for a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence and Information based upon the rising importance of foreign policy and the inability of Congress to execute its function under its present committee structure. Representative Lindsay again inserted his March 1964 ESQUIRE article into the Congressional Record thereby implying that he does not retreat from the views expressed therein.

2. Representative Lindsay previously charged that CIA was a policy-making agency. His recent articles had toned this down by using such phrases as "the charge has been made." This latest speech claims only that at times CIA has "shaped" policy. He gives two unique reasons for this. The first is that an absence of clear State Department policy guidance "can cause other agencies of government to occupy the field." Secondly, he says that "in at least one instance, (probably the Bay of Pigs) operations have snowballed themselves into policy." While he does not picture the Agency as thrusting itself into policy-making as he did previously, Representative Lindsay paints a picture of CIA unwillingly drawn into this field by a process of accretion.

3. Representative Lindsay previously accused CIA of strong policy differences with the State Department in Viet Nam. In his latest speech he describes Viet Nam as a "mishmash" and adds that experts have

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"recognized that separate agencies of the U.S. Government were at times pulling in separate directions." Without naming CIA or the intelligence community, he says that the President found it necessary to reassert the primacy of policy organs over "other agencies."

4. With regard to the Bay of Pigs, Representative Lindsay indicates that the Secretary of State would not agree that policy lines were clear. Representative Lindsay also alludes to the Pentagon awaiting orders to fly, as well as post invasion inquiries by General Taylor and the Attorney General. In the same paragraph he states that the press stories about Hawks and Doves have never been denied.

5. In arguing for a Joint Committee, Representative Lindsay refrains from attacks on the Agency or any mention of Iran and Guatemala. Instead he stresses previous support for the Joint Committee concept by the then Senator John F. Kennedy and Senator Mike Mansfield. He also notes the bipartisan nature of such a resolution. Representative Lindsay chose to make a case for greater supervision of the CIA on the general principle of a congressional double check on policy making.

6. Representative Lindsay rather adroitly attempted to modify his previous remarks concerning the low status of the existing CIA Subcommittees. He said he was not referring to the status of the personalities involved, but rather to the relatively low priority of attention accorded the supervising committee in the congressional hierarchy. He argued that attaching increased importance to intelligence matters would improve rather than threaten secrecy. He did relent on his previous allegations that existing subcommittees are spending too little time on CIA, and admitted that the situation has improved, but he suggested that the figures thereon might be padded. In this regard, he quoted the remarks of a former subcommittee member (who admittedly did not know how long he had served) and remarks of Senator Saltonstall. He again repeated his error that the Director is the only CIA political appointee confirmed by the Senate.

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7. Representative Lindsay concluded by restating the four areas which he believes merit investigation. The only change here is that previous speeches had questioned the housing of special operations under the same roof as intelligence collection. Representative Lindsay now states only that there should be an inquiry into the relationship between the two.



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Approved For Release 2006/07/27 : CIA-RDP71B00364R000600130005-3

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